

Claim 4 (amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein at least in the regions in contact with the bearing surface (8), the valve (9) consists of a rubber elastic material.

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Claim 5 (amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein one part of the means for producing a detachable, substantially gastight coupling from the upwardly directed opening is a surface.

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Claim 6 (amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein the detachable, substantially gastight coupling is formed by a rubber seal between the surface and attachment of the device to produce a vacuum.

Claim 7 (amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein the surface (12) for attaching the device to produce a vacuum is directed to the contact surface (14) of the vacuum holding device (1).

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Claim 8 (amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein the vacuum holding device (1) has a holding receptacle for the equipment holder.

Claim 9 (amended) A method for securing a vacuum holding device (1) by means of an apparatus for producing a vacuum according to claim 1 to a contact surface (14) comprising:

- positioning the vacuum holding device (1) on a contact surface (14),
  - producing a detachable, substantially gastight coupling between the outwardly directed opening of the vacuum holding device (1) and the piston suction pipe (13),
  - producing a vacuum in the vacuum chamber (5) by withdrawing the suction piston (28) from the piston suction pipe (13) until the suction piston (28) passes an upper opening (26) and
  - removing the apparatus for producing a vacuum.
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SUB 1367

A3 (Claim 12 (amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 10 wherein the strip or rod-shaped extension of the valve (9) is elastic in order to hold the valve in the bearing surface.

Claim 13 (amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 10 wherein the seal (15) is a flat seal made of elastic material.

Claim 14 (amended) The vacuum holding device (1) according to claim 1 wherein the seal (15) is a flat seal made of an elastic material.

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